

REMARKS

The present Preliminary Amendment is being filed concurrently with a Request for Continued Examination.

The claims now pending in the application are Claims 58 to 65, the independent claims being Claims 58, 60, 64 and 65. Claims 1 to 57 previously were cancelled. Claims 58 to 63 have been amended herein. Claims 65 and 65 are newly presented herein.

In the Official Action dated February 13, 2004, Claims 58 to 63 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,497,194 (Sakagami), in view of Japanese Publication No. 06-231023 (Saito) further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,788,507 (Redford). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections respectfully are requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Initially, Applicant's attorney gratefully acknowledges the courtesies extended to him by the Examiner in granting a personal interview on July 13, 2004. In that interview, Applicant's attorney discussed various novel aspects of the present invention, discussed the features of the cited art, and presented arguments distinguishing the claimed invention over the cited art. Although the Examiner agreed that the application disclosed allowable subject matter, the Examiner maintained that the claims presently on file may be broadly interpreted to include reading out image data or file name data pre-recorded on a detachable recorded medium and generating a new file name for new image data or voice data based on such pre-recorded image data or file name data. Applicant's attorney then discussed alternative proposed claim amendments for distinguishing the claimed invention over the cited art, and it was agreed that the claims would distinguish over the cited art if amended to emphasize the feature of a detachable recording medium including pre-recorded *instruction* information which is read out of the detachable recording medium, for determining a new file name for new image data or voice data to be stored in the

detachable recording medium. The Examiner also indicated that such amendments would raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search.

The rejections of the claims over the cited art respectfully are traversed. Nevertheless, without conceding the propriety of the rejections or the claim interpretations asserted by the Examiner at the personal interview, and solely to advance prosecution to issue, independent Claims 58 to 63 have been amended herein more clearly to recite various novel features of the present invention, consistent with the discussion and agreements reached at the personal interview. Support for the proposed amendments may be found in the original application. No new matter has been added.

Newly presented independent Claims 64 and 65 have been added to provide Applicant with an additional scope of protection commensurate with the disclosure. In particular, independent Claims 64 and 65 recite features that parallel the features of Claims 58 and 60 with respect to an apparatus (non-means-plus-function format) and a computer readable recording media having stored therein program steps executing such method steps. Support for these features may be found in the present application. No new matter has been added.

Applicant submits that the prior art fails to anticipate the present invention. Moreover, Applicants submit that there are differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art, such that the subject matter taken as a whole would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made.

For the above reasons, Applicant submits that independent Claims 58, 60, 64 and 65 are allowable over the cited art.

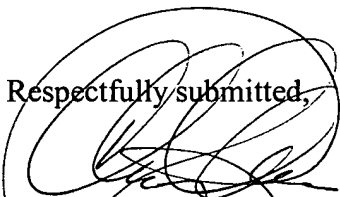
Claims 59, 61, 62 and 63 depend from Claims 58 and 60, respectively, and are believed allowable for the same reasons. Moreover, each of these dependent claims recites additional features in combination with the features of its respective base claim, and

is believed allowable in its own right. Individual consideration of the dependent claims respectfully is requested.

Applicant believes that the present Amendment is responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner in the Official Action and the personal interview, and submits that the application is in allowable form. Favorable consideration of the claims and passage to issue of the present application at the Examiner's earliest convenience earnestly are solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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